The WAIS Inc. Server for the Sun – Release 1.0

Based on the WAIS (Wide Area Information Servers) open architecture, Release 1.0 of the WAIS Inc. Server for the Sun allows users on Mac, PC and other popular desktop environments to search and retrieve multimedia information in natural language or Boolean queries.

The WAIS Inc. Server is designed to make large collections of documents available to networked user communities. These documents can be of native formats (i.e.: word processing, graphics, etc.) as well as text, and the server can be scheduled to index on a regular basis. The resulting indexes are small, and yield interactive response to user queries, even over large (multi–gigabyte) collections.

The WAIS Inc. search engine uses weighted boolean techniques to respond to standard boolean queries. In addition, the server combines various techniques (word weighting, term weighting, phrase matching, and proximity relationships) to respond to natural language queries. Unique to the WAIS Inc. server is the ability for users to combine natural language and boolean statements to better target their searches. All results are returned in a relevance–ranked list.

The WAIS Inc. server supports relevance feedback. This means that once a user finds a "good" document, they can mark it and the server will find more like it.

The server also supports integration of information from various sources (documents in file systems, within databases, or from news feeds). Tools from WAIS Inc. are available that facilitate in–depth analysis of usage statistics, and for precise tuning of the server.

WAIS TECHNOLOGY FEATURES
• Client-server architecture
• NISO Z39.50 protocol based
• Compatibility with WAIS clients

SERVER FEATURES
- Automatic indexing of documents in original format
  - Supports unix mail, netnews, rmail, etc.
  - Supports indexing of documents in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Quicktime, etc.
  - Supports spreedsheet and database output with conversion utility
  - Easily customizable to other document types
- Multiple input data formats supported
- Customized thesaurus for user specified synonyms, general thesaurus included.
- Stemming rules for English
- Incremental update of indexes
- Small index file overhead, typically 1/3 of original source text
- Scalable database size (1 MByte to 5 Gigabytes)
- Restricted access to databases based on IP addresses
- Logs of server transactions and log summary reports

SEARCHING FEATURES
- Natural Language and Relevance Feedback
- Weighted Boolean
- Mixed weighted Boolean and Natural Language

TO COME IN NEXT RELEASE:
- Incremental updating of databases
- Support for more input file formats
- Support for Z39.50-1992

SERVICE AND MAINTAINANCE
- Phone and electronic mail support
- Customizations and consulting available
- Bug report and fixes, and FAQ wais server and email lists
- Free upgrades for 1 year

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS
- Sun4 architecture
- 16MB or more RAM recommended

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS
- Unix 4.1.3 or Solaris 2.1

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